

REMARKS

Main claim 21 was amended to recite that the plate has a food depression 106 for holding food, a container depression 104 for holding a container, and a pair of mounting holes 112 extending through the plate and spaced apart of each other. The elongated strap 108 has mounting ends 110 respectively insertable into the mounting holes and turnable to overlie the mounting holes to retain the strap on the plate in a mounted position (for support, see page 10, lines 3-7, of the specification). The strap forms a loop into which a user's hand is received. The user's palm supports the plate from below the same.

Wightman discloses a wet sponge stapled to a cup 11. The cup has no food or container depressions. Wightman discloses a strap 14 but its opposite ends are not turnable to overlie the mounting holes in the strips 12.

Norris discloses no container depression in the plate. Instead, as shown in Fig. 4, the cup is held underneath the plate. Also, the ends 14 of the straps 12 are not insertable or turnable relative to any mounting holes; instead, the ends 14 are adhered to the plate (col. 2, line 38).

Ercolani discloses a holder for a plate, not a plate itself. A rigid bracket 60 is connected by arms 64 to ribs 44 of the holder. The arms 64 are not insertable or turnable relative to any mounting hole.

Kao relates to an aid for holding a tablet computer, and Davis relates to an artist's case supported on a user's wrist. Neither of these references deal with food or containers, nor do they teach or suggest that the ends of a strap could be inserted or turned relative to mounting holes.

Gibbar was cited with respect to the staggered projections in Figs. 4-5. However, none of these projections are parallel to a centerline, as now claimed in claims 24-25.

Siegal was cited to show that a strap could have a circular cross-section. Yet, Siegal relates to ski gloves, not food serving platters, and supports no plate.

Laird was cited to show that serrations are old. Yet, Laird's serrations are on one end of a visor, not on a strap for holding a food plate.

Applicant disputes the Examiner's holding that T-shaped ends of a strap are well known. It is not shown or suggested by any of the cited art. In any event, no reference discloses that T-shaped ends are present at opposite ends of a strap for supporting a food plate.

Allowance of claims 21-32 is respectfully requested.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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